

Message Text

SECRET

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65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 281157Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 3305

S E C R E T MANAMA 1062

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : MASS, MARR, BA
SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF : STATE 185030

1. WHILE I AM NOT SANGUINE INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL WILL DO THE TRICK THEY STRIKE ME AS EXACTLY THE RIGHT STEP TO TAKE AT THIS STAGE.

2. MY PROBLEM IS THAT I HAVE LOST THE PRIME MINISTER (MANAMA 1045). IN CHECKING WITH HIS OFFICE TODAY I AM TOLD THAT HE UNLIKELY TO RETURN TO BAHRAIN UNTIL AROUND AUGUST 7 AT THE EARLIEST AND MIGHT WELL EXTEND HIS PRIVATE VACATION AN ADDITIONAL WEEK OR SO BEYOND THAT DATE. AMIR IS STILL PLANNING TO DEPART FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO AROUND AUGUST 16. THUS WE MUST ANTICIPATE UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERABLE SLIPPAGE IN ANY GOB RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL I AM INSTRUCTED TO MAKE.

3. THE IMMEDIATE QUESTION IS TO WHOM I SHOULD MAKE THIS PROPOSAL, IF ANYONE, IN PRIME MINISTER'S ABSENCE. AS BEST WE KNOW ONLY AMIR, PRIME MINISTER AND CROWN PRINCE/DEFENSE MINISTER ARE AWARE OF PRIME MINISTER'S FEELER TO US. I AM PERSUADED PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT BE COMFORTABLE WITH MY GOING TO CROWN PRINCE/DEFENSE MINISTER, WHO IS ACTING PRIME MINISTER; FOR REASONS OF WHICH DEPARTMENT IS AWARE I AM IN ANY EVENT STRONGLY DISINCLINED TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP DIRECTLY WITH HIM IN THE ABSENCE OF THE

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STEADYING HAND OF THE PRIME MINISTER. I AM SCHEDULED TO SEE

AMIR AUGUST 1. IF DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION I INTEND TO MAKE
PRESENTATION REFTEL TO AMIR AT THAT TIME. WHILE, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE APPARENT WISHES OF THE AL KHALIFA INNER CIRCLE, I HAVE
PREVIOUSLY REFRAINED FROM GOING DIRECTLY TO THE AMIR ON SUBSTANTIVE
MATTERS, IN THE PRESENT SITUATION I SEE NO GOOD ALTERNATIVE.

4. PLEASE ADVISE IF DEPARTMENT OBJECTS TO THIS APPROACH.
TWINAM

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NNN

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